

Lightner was elected mayor of Raleigh in 1972, having put together a coalition of suburban precincts with African-American precincts to capture a City Hall that had been run previously by bankers, merchants, and longtime established neighborhoods. His election as mayor of a capital city was national news. His election was the precursor to what would happen across the South in later years.

Defeated for re-election in 1975, Lightner never again ran for public office, though he was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to the State Senate in 1977 to complete a term for developer John Winters, a close friend. He remained on the forefront of every question that had to do with Raleigh development and, in particular, with anything that would affect the south and southwest parts of the city.

Lightner's contribution after his service as mayor was of major importance. He was, in a sense, the power broker with whom politicians had to deal if they wanted to be successful in Raleigh and Wake County. He served as a model for—and mentor of—other African-American young people in whom he saw promise. Former State House Speaker Dan Blue, now running for the U.S. Senate, was a protégé. So was Brad Thompson, state director for U.S. Senator JOHN EDWARDS. Most of Raleigh's current African-American leaders share the Lightner stamp.

Clarence Lightner was a successful businessman, husband and father. He served his business profession at all levels, including as president of the National Morticians Associations. He served the Raleigh Citizens Associations, Rex Hospital, the Raleigh Human Relations Council, the NAACP, the Southern Policies Board and dozens of other organizations. He was chairman of both the Saint Augustine's College Board of Trustees and that of North Carolina State University.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ETHERIDGE. I yield to the gentleman from Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Mr. WATT), who knew Clarence well.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), and my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), for taking the time out to do this tribute to Clarence Lightner.

For African American politicians in North Carolina, there are a number of people on whose shoulders we believe we stand as Members of Congress, as mayors of cities, as city council people. Clarence Lightner was among the first of those on whose shoulders we stand and on whose shoulders a number of politicians in North Carolina have stood over the years.

I remember very well back in the early 1970s when I started getting into politics, managing Harvey Gantt's campaign. Harvey Gantt went on to become, in later years, the first African American mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, but he did that on the history and with the history there that Clarence Lightner had broken that barrier in Raleigh some years earlier.

He was just a magnificent man whom we all looked up to, respected, and ad-

mired; and his memory will certainly live on for years and years. He is the person who gave us advice and who mentored us.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE LIGHTNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) to continue with a few comments on this tribute to Clarence Lightner.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for continuing to yield to me. I know I am kind of butting in on others' time, but the one thing I do want to say about Clarence Lightner, that I think both of my colleagues will acknowledge, is that all of us went to him for advice, but Clarence did not always tell you what you wanted to hear. He was sometimes blunt, he was sometimes humorous, but every time he gave advice, he did it in the context of a story that was based on some experiences that had shaped his life in many ways. And he did it with humor and with a smile, and he was always giving in that respect.

That is the thing that I will remember about Clarence Lightner above all else.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those recollections, and also my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), for taking the time to pay tribute to our friend, Clarence Lightner, who was a friend and a mentor to me and to so many others.

He was a prominent businessman, he was a ground-breaking political leader. Clarence Lightner, Raleigh's first and only African American mayor, died this week at the age of 80. He served a single term as mayor, as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) has pointed out, from 1973 to 1975; and then he played a critical leadership role in North Carolina politics for decades to follow.

I have experienced firsthand Clarence's exceptional talent for bringing disparate groups together to effect positive change in both official and unofficial capacities. He led the city of Raleigh during a tumultuous period of expansion and development. His success was directly attributable, I believe, to his ability to relate as easily to people on the street as he did to business and community leaders.

Clarence was frequently sought out for his insight and his guidance. It was often said, and was actually reported again in the News and Observer of Raleigh this week, that any candidate seeking voter support in Raleigh had better secure Clarence Lightner's support first. That was the truth, and I can attest to it.

Clarence was a mentor to me personally as I attempted to lead our State Democratic Party and then to represent the fourth district in Congress. I valued his wise counsel very much. It was always delivered with unfailing good humor, and his spirit was a generous one and a cooperative one.

Clarence Lightner offered leadership to organizations ranging from the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association to the National League of Cities to the Democratic National Committee, the Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association, the Board of Trustees of St. Augustine's College, North Carolina Central University, and North Carolina State University.

He had a huge impact for good in Raleigh and throughout North Carolina and across the Nation. We will continue, Mr. Speaker, to feel this impact long after he is gone. We will miss him. We treasure his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD at this point the editorial tribute to Clarence Lightner from the Raleigh News and Observer from July 10, 2002.

A PATHFINDER FOR RALEIGH

Clarence Lightner was a gentle, soft-spoken man of resolve. At his core he possessed a strength and a courage that helped him overcome racial barriers—and then he helped Raleigh overcome them, too. That is but one of the legacies he leaves following his death Monday at the age of 80.

Lightner, long-time proprietor of a funeral home that bears the family name, was the Capital City's first and thus far only African-American mayor, serving from 1973 to 1975. He also was the first mayor to be elected under a then-new procedure whereby the mayor is chosen directly by the people and not by the City Council.

Lightner grew up in a segregated city, the son of a prominent businessman, Calvin Lightner, who had run for the city commission in the early 1900s. In Clarence Lightner's lifetime, Raleigh was to change dramatically, and he was to help achieve that change.

Though he served just one term as mayor following a period as a council member, Lightner remained a powerful force in politics through his influence in Southeast Raleigh. Long after his term was over he continued to advise candidates whom he favored and to help shape issues in citywide campaigns.

Lightner was always unfailingly gracious, and keen in his remembrances of his growing-up in Raleigh. He had, after all, belonged to a family that was active in helping the city grow. He also served by spotting those young people he felt one day could serve in leadership roles. Many of them did not disappoint him, and in their service especially, Clarence Lightner's legacy is a living one.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, let me thank both my colleagues, because Clarence Lightner was an exceptional man; and my colleague was right when he said that if you ran for public office, as he and I did, and others, we are here to attest to the fact that you sought Clarence Lightner's counsel. You really wanted his support;

but you sought his counsel first, as we well know.

He was honest, he was blunt, but he did it in such a nice way. Let me share what Webster's Dictionary defines as a Renaissance man, because I really think Clarence Lightner is one. It says, a Renaissance man is one who has wide interests; is an expert in several areas. And certainly Clarence Lightner fully met these descriptions. He earned that designation again and again, and he showed in many ways that he really did value liberty, equality, and human kindness; and he exhibited it every day.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, and I hope that what is coming through these tributes today is the human qualities of Clarence Lightner. There was no question he exerted strong leadership and a visionary leadership. But one reason he had the impact that he did, and that so many people, like us, who regarded him as a mentor and a friend and a shaping force in their lives, is because of his human warmth and generosity of spirit and extraordinary sense of humor and an ability to bring out the best in people, and a desire to see people do their best. He did not need to claim the credit himself. He was very good at bringing along people and letting them shine.

There are many, many people in North Carolina whose lives have been enriched by this man and who join us in mourning his passing. So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time to offer this tribute today; and it is entirely fitting that we gather here to honor Clarence Lightner, to testify as to what he has meant in our lives and to bear witness to what he has meant to North Carolina and the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEKS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OMNIBUS CORPORATE REFORM AND RESTORATION ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have heard over the last 48 hours a pronouncement of a crisis in corporate America; that many employees and pensioners and other people have been impacted negatively by the crumbling confidence in corporate America and the procedures by which we invest in that system which have gone on for a very long time.

Let me simply recount a story, Mr. Speaker, that probably has been heard over and over again, but it bears telling again, and that is the story of many of my constituents and those that live in Houston. For a moment, we thought that the failings were indicative of a particular industry, the energy industry. We felt that something had gone awry with one of the companies that had been one of our most civic-minded corporate citizens. But just over a weekend we were able to see what happens when things go awry and the integrity of the process of running a large business is not adhered to.

Within a weekend's time, after the continued undermining and crumbling of Enron Corporation, \$105 million was given as retention bonuses to many of the executives. That probably happened on a Friday. On Sunday, bankruptcy occurred. On Monday, 4,500 employees were laid off, and investors around the country were finding out that they had lost millions and millions of dollars due to the largest bankruptcy filing in this Nation.

So it is more than a crisis of 48 hours; it is more than a crisis that has been acknowledged by this administration. It is an ongoing crisis. And I personally have said that the inertia and inaction of this Congress must stop and this Congress must move forward and ensure that we respond to the American people. My colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), is attempting to do that, along with the distinguished gentleman from the other body, Mr. SARBANES, with a bill that really attacks the problem, particularly as it relates to the issues of accounting and consulting. This is so key.

But I want to say that the Omnibus Corporate Reform and Restoration Act of 2002 is a bill that is crucial. This is a bill that I hope will bring some attention and that will respond to all of the issues that we are addressing. It concerns the oversight of boards of directors. It concerns the idea of investor integrity. It concerns the protecting of employee stock options and pension plans.

This bill may not pass tomorrow or next week. This bill has no pride of authorship, because I believe that the key element for this Congress is to act. It is a bill I intend to file, the Omnibus Corporate Reform and Restoration Act of 2002.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, the \$4 billion that was lost by WorldCom is an indication that

this is not industry-specific, this is systemwide. This is attacking all of us more than where it hurts because certainly money lost hurts, but it has to do with the integrity of our system of governance and economy, the capitalistic system that we have attempted to promote throughout the world, that if you work hard, you have an opportunity in this Nation to succeed.

We encourage developing nations to look at our system of democracy and the economy. We provide incentives for particularly small businesses around the world, but nothing serves us in a worse way than to continue to have a system that does not have integrity and trust.

There is a crisis. It did not just occur in the last 48 hours. It has been going on for a while. It is a crisis when the stock of WorldCom sold for \$64 just 3 weeks ago and 7 cents in the last couple of days, and now in my terminology, it has been disenrolled off of NASDAQ. It is a crisis when we can construct SPEs in order to hide funds, and those are separate companies within where executives can in fact own a part of those companies within another company or the larger company and siphon off funds to the extent that boards of directors do not know what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, I simply say that in the course of having the responsibility of responding to an ongoing crisis, I am sad to say we have waited too long. But I am proud that we are speaking now in a voice that will be heard by the Democratic leadership, and I simply say that it is important that we all look to stand ready to force an issue that addresses the needs of American people, and the sadness of losing your home, of not being able to pay tuition, losing your pension, and trying to avoid going under. I do not think we can do any less other than trying to respond to corporate infractions, the corporate undermining of the economic system of this Nation.

INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCRIMINATION OF BLACK FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to join my former colleague from North Carolina who acknowledged the contributions of a dear friend who died recently, Clarence Lightner.

Mayor Lightner was a friend to us in North Carolina who worked in the early 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. He was a pioneer not only because he became the first African American to become the mayor of the capital of North Carolina, but also because of his ability to raise issues that were controversial and get them on the table. He also inspired other people to do likewise. I certainly will miss him personally as a friend. I got to work with him on various committees that we served together on,